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Commissioner for Patents  
Serial No. 10/804,182

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

*Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102*

The Office Action rejected claims 20-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,657,285 to Rao.

Rao teaches a method of operating a memory device that has a plurality of memory banks responsive to a row address strobe. When the strobe is at logic high, a first memory bank enters an active state, and a second memory bank enters a precharge cycle, and conversely when the strobe is at logic low, the states are reversed. Accordingly, at any point in time only half of the memory is active and can be accessed. It is therefore impossible for operations addressed to a memory storage element of the non-active memory bank to be accessed until the row address strobe changes levels.

Applicant has amended claim 20 to more clearly define the invention. The amendment to the effect that the overlap occurs regardless of which memory storage elements are identified by the first and next address signals, is supported by FIG.7, which indicates that read 1 and read 2 (successive) operations may take place on the same or different sub-arrays.

Applicant submits that claim 20 as amended, is not taught or suggested by Rao. It is established law that in order for a document to anticipate a claimed invention, the document must teach each and every feature of the claim. Claim 20 as amended claims that precharge of memory storage elements selected by a first address signal happens at substantially the same time as a next address signal is being decoded, regardless of the memory storage elements selected by the first and next address signals. The only case where precharge of one memory storage element overlaps with the decoding of a next address signal according to Rao's system is when both sequential addresses happen to be associated with opposite memory banks. The rejection of claims 20-24 and 27-28 is thereby traversed.

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Applicant has amended the specification to correct an error. Paragraph 0015 has been amended to improve clarity by removing a reference to previous technology from the detailed description.

Applicant has also amended claim 12 to improve clarity.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-19. However, in view of the amendments made to claims 12 and 20 and for reasons set forth above, each of claims 12-29 now pending in this application are now considered to be in a condition for allowance.

*Conclusion*

In view of the amendment made to the claim 20 and the above arguments, all claims in this application are now considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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